

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS.

UNDER ROYAL COMMISSION.

DATED 12TH NOVEMBER, 1897.

ON THE
QUESTION OF PRICES OF SCHOOL BOOKS, ROYALTIES, ETC.



TORONTO :
WARWICK BRO'S AND RUTTER, PRINTERS, 68 AND 70 FRONT STREET WEST.
1898.

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

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1878
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COPY OF AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPROVED BY HIS HONOUR
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER,
A.D. 1897.

Upon consideration of the report of the Honourable the Minister of Education, dated 10th November, 1897, the Committee of Council advise that Edward Morgan, Junior Judge of the County Court of the County of York, James Bain, junior, Librarian of the Free Library of the City of Toronto, and C. Blackett Robinson, President of the Westminster Company, (Limited), of the City of Toronto, be constituted a Board of Commissioners for the purpose of ascertaining whether any reduction can be made in the price fixed by the various agreements entered into between the Minister of Education, acting on behalf of Her Majesty, and the publishers of the text books authorized for use in the Public and High Schools, at which the said text books are now sold to the public, having regard to such reasonable profits to the publishers and the trade as are warranted by ordinary business practices.

The Committee further advise that the said Commissioners be authorized to enquire with regard to the royalty paid upon all text books used in the Public and High Schools of Ontario, and to report whether in their opinion, due regard being had to the rights of the authors of the said text books, and to what extent the payment of such royalties affects the cost of the text books to the public, and whether it would be in the public interest that the Department of Education should hereafter make such arrangements with authors by the payment of a lump sum as would relieve further payment to the author by way of royalty.

And the Committee further authorize the Commissioners to make such enquiries as to the cost of text books in Ontario and elsewhere as they may consider expedient.

Certified,

J. LONSDALE CAPREOL,
Assistant Clerk of Executive Council.

THE HONOURABLE

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

{ Seal of
the Pro-
vince of
Ontario. }

(Sgd.) GEORGE A. KIRKPATRICK.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc., etc., etc.

(Sgd.) ARTHUR S. HARDY, } To Edward Morgan, Junior Judge of the County
Attorney-General. } Court of Our County of York, James Bain,
the Younger, Librarian of the Free Library,
and Christopher Blackett Robinson, President of the Westminster Publishing
Company (Limited), all of Our City of Toronto, in Our County of York, and
Province of Ontario, Our Commissioners in this behalf, Greeting:—

Know ye that having implicit confidence in your loyalty, learning, discretion and integrity, We of Our Special Grace and of Our Royal Will and Pleasure have thought fit to nominate and appoint, and by these presents do nominate, constitute and appoint you, the said Edward Morgan, you, the said James Bain, the Younger, and you, the said Christopher Blackett Robinson, to be a Board of Commissioners for the purpose of ascertaining whether any reduction can be made in the price fixed by the various agreements entered into between the Minister of Education of Our Province of Ontario, acting on Our behalf, and the publishers of the text books authorized for use in the Public and High Schools of Our said Province, at which the said text books are now sold to the public, having regard to such reasonable profits to the publishers and the trade as are warranted by ordinary business practices.

And We do hereby command, authorize and require you Our said Commissioners to enquire with regard to the royalty paid upon all text books used in the Public and High Schools in Our said Province of Ontario, and to report whether in your opinion, due regard being had to the rights of the authors of the said text books, and to what extent the payment of such royalties affects the cost of the text books to the public, and whether it would be to the public interest that the Department of Education of Our said Province should hereafter make such arrangements with authors by the payment of a lump sum as would relieve further payment to the authors by way of royalty.

And We do hereby further command, authorize and require you Our said Commissioners to make such enquiries as to the cost of the text books in Our Province of Ontario and elsewhere, as you Our said Commissioners may consider expedient.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our Province of Ontario to be hereunto affixed.

Witness, the Honourable Sir George Airey Kirkpatrick, Knight Commander of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Member of Our Privy Council for Canada, and Lieutenant-Governor of Our Province of Ontario.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Toronto, in Our said Province, this twelfth day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and in the Sixty-first year of Our Reign.

By Command,

(Signed) E. J. DAVIS,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO INQUIRE CONCERNING THE PRICES OF THE VARIOUS TEXT BOOKS AUTHORIZED TO BE USED IN THE PUBLIC AND HIGH SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO, AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED WITH SUCH TEXT BOOKS.

*To His Honor, the Honorable Sir Oliver Mowat, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Q.C.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario :—*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR—

The undersigned having been appointed by Commission under the Great Seal of the Province, bearing date the twelfth day of November, in the year of Our Lord 1897, a Board of Commissioners—

(1) “For the purpose of ascertaining whether any reduction can be made in the prices fixed by the various agreements entered into between the Minister of Education of Our Province of Ontario acting on Our behalf, and the publishers of the text books authorized for use in the Public and High Schools of Our said Province at which price the said text books are now sold to the public, having regard to such reasonable profits to the publishers and the trade, as are warranted by ordinary business practices.”

(2) “To enquire with regard to the royalty paid upon all text books used in the Public and High Schools in Our said Province of Ontario, and to report whether, in your opinion, due regard being had to the rights of the authors of the said text books, and to what extent the payment of such royalties affect the cost of the text books to the public, and whether it would be in the public interest that the Department of Education of Our said Province should hereafter make such arrangements with authors by the payment of a lump sum as would relieve further payment to the authors by way of royalties,” and

(3) “To make such inquiries as to the cost of the text books in Our Province of Ontario and elsewhere as you Our said Commissioners may consider expedient,” beg leave to report as follows :—

We have called before us the various publishers under agreement with the Government for publication of the text books now authorized for use, and used, in the Public and High Schools of Ontario, and have examined them and such of their employees having knowledge on the matter, upon oath, touching the several items of expenditure which go to make up the cost of publication of each text book from the time it leaves the author's hands until sold to the trade for retail to the public, which items of expense include the actual original cost in the preparation for and manufacture of the letter press plates, map plates and illustration plates (this is called capital account, and the accuracy of the information afforded to us by the several publishers as to this item was verified by reference to the books of such publishers), the paper, the presswork, the binding, and the cost of handling. We also examined, upon oath, various other expert witnesses not in any way associated in business with any of the publishers, as to the

quality and value of paper used in printing such text books, and as to the reasonable cost of presswork and binding, and the proper percentage to be charged for cost of handling.

After careful examination and consideration of the evidence before us, and an examination of each text book as to its general make up and the quality of the paper used, and the character of the work done in its manufacture, and after allowing for the royalties paid on each book, and making allowance for "such reasonable profits to the publishers and the trade as are warranted by ordinary business practices," we find as to the sale price of each of the text books now used in the Public and High Schools as follows:—

The Readers now used in the Public Schools are :

First Reader, Part I.....	price 10cts.
First Reader, Part II.	" 15 "
Second Reader	" 20 "
Third Reader.....	" 30 "
Fourth Reader	" 40 "
High School Reader.....	" 50 "

These Readers are published by Copp, Clark & Co., The Canada Publishing Company and W. J. Gage & Co. Prior to 1st July, 1896, the prices for these Readers were 10 cts., 15 cts., 25 cts., 35 cts., 45 cts., 60 cts., respectively, and were cut down to the present prices by the Minister of Education when he entered into new agreements with the publishers, which new agreements provided for better binding of First Book, Parts I. and II. A careful enquiry into the "cost of publication" of these Readers and an examination of the make up of each book and the testimony of witnesses qualified to judge as to the material and workmanship employed in the publication has satisfied us, that the Readers are of excellent and durable quality as to paper, typography, illustrations and binding, and in addition have a very attractive appearance, which is not to be overlooked in the get-up of school books, and that the retail price now charged for each book is not excessive and should not be reduced to any lower prices than that to which the Minister of Education has by the recent agreements reduced them, as the publishers and the trade generally will not at present prices realize more than a fair business profit from the sale of these books in connection with the other school books published by them.

This series of readers was adopted by the Department of Education in the year 1885 in the place of what were known as the Campbell Readers which had been in the year 1868 selected by the "Council of Public Instruction," under the direction of the late Dr. Ryerson to supersede the Irish Readers then in use, and which in the opinion of the Superintendent of Education had become unsuitable for use in Canadian schools. In making enquiry as to the cost of text books in Ontario as compared with the cost of similar books in other countries, we have deemed it desirable to enquire into the literary merits of the books and their adaptability and suitability for use in our schools, and have had the advantage of the evidence of Professor Alexander, of Toronto University; Professor Reynar, of Victoria University; Professor Clark, of Trinity University, and Chancellor Wallace, of McMaster University, and they all united in speaking in terms of high praise as to the literary quality and educational value of all the school books now in use in the Public and High Schools of Ontario, and particularly of the English, French and German grammars, the histories and arithmetics and the Ontario readers.

Professor Clark says :—

“ No one would think of using the Irish readers here now. The readers at present in use are beautiful books considering the price, compared with Nelson's (the Campbell series) they are superior, the extracts are more suitable ; taking the poetical selections they are better adapted to the needs of the children requiring them and are much more instructive ; better adapted to literary taste and better formed as to plan.”

“ Don't think there is much room for improvement. Don't think it possible to get more suitable set (of Readers) and have based my information on many years of experience.”

From our own examination of the Irish and American Readers and from the strong opinions expressed by the four above named prominent educationists we are satisfied that the Ontario Readers are infinitely better adapted for use in our schools than either the Irish or American series. The Irish series, though very excellent in its way, and perhaps suitable for the schools where used, is conspicuous for its very limited amount of reference to Canada, and the limited, antiquated and somewhat erroneous information given with reference to modern Canada and Canadian matters ; it is also defective in not containing a proper proportion of modern and up to date literature. On the whole so far as the education of the young people of Canada is concerned this series is unsuitable, out of date, and utterly out of touch with Canadian ideas and methods of education.

While it is true that the Irish National series is sold at a lower price than the Ontario Readers yet when we consider the difference in literary quality, of suitability to the requirements of our Canadian schools and of the workmanship, which in the Irish series is so much inferior, we are forced to the conclusion that to revert to the former series would be a great step backward in our educational system. For these reasons the Ontario Reader seems to us to be actually cheaper and better fitted for the requirements of our schools. The Irish series would be dear for our Ontario schools at any price.

The American series is also good of its kind, but is “ United States ” from beginning to end and for this reason alone would not be adapted for use in our schools.

For all these reasons and looking at the literary, artistic and educational merit of the Ontario series of Readers and the excellence of the print and binding, we are convinced that these Readers are infinitely more adapted for use in Canadian schools than any other Readers and are furnished to the public at very reasonable prices, and that as Chancellor Wallace put it, “ the public have nothing to complain of,” and we are further satisfied that the publishers and the trade are not making an undue profit from the production and sale of these books.

Of the other text books in use the following are published by Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co. :—

Public School History of England and Canada.

High School History of England and Canada.

High School German Grammar.

High School German Reader.

High School Physical Science, Parts I. and II.

High School Chemistry.

High School Composition from Models.

High School History of Greece and Rome.

(*French-English Readers.*)

First Reader, Parts I. and II.

Second Reader.

Third Reader.

After allowing a reasonable profit to the publishers for the period during which these books have been in use, the capital account remains unrealized, the profit therefore is not excessive and the prices of each of these books should not be reduced.

Ahn's First German Book.

Ahn's Second German Book.

Ahn's Third German Book.

Ahn's First German Reader.

High School Beginner's Greek Book.

These books are published abroad and are controlled by Copp, Clark & Co., the sales are small and the profits correspondingly small; the profit on each book is not excessive and the price cannot be reduced.

Clement's History of the Dominion of Canada :—This book was by arrangement authorized in several of the Provinces including Ontario, and the price is the same in all the Provinces. The profit is not excessive and the price should not be reduced.

First Latin Book :—The price of this book is now \$1, the average sales are fair. It was authorized in August of 1892, for five years and the price then fixed was not too large considering the amount of capital account; the capital account has now been paid off, after allowing for reasonable profit in meantime, leaving a moderate surplus. If this book is continued the price should be reduced to 75 cts. after the end of 1898.

High School Book-keeping :—The price of this book is now 65 cts. It was authorized in July, 1887, and it has taken years to wipe out the capital account after allowing a moderate profit to the publishers, leaving a very small surplus. The price of this book is not too large considering its merits as a book, but as the capital account has been paid off in addition to yielding a profit it should as a school book be reduced to 60 cts. after the end of 1898.

As to the books published by the Canada Publishing Company, we find and report as follows :—

Public School Arithmetic.

Public School Grammar.

High School English Composition.

There is no substantial profit in the publication of these books and the capital account is still outstanding; the price cannot therefore be reduced.

Public School Drawing Course.

Public School Writing course, Vertical series No. 7.

McLellan's Elements of Algebra.

High School Drawing Course.

The profits of sale of these books have not so far, after allowing moderate profits to the publishers, been sufficient to repay the original cost capital account and has therefore been no excessive profit and the prices should not be reduced.

High School Grammar.

High School Geography.

The publishers have realized a good profit on these books which has been sufficient, after deduction for a living profit, to pay off the capital account and leave a moderate surplus; the circulation, however, of these books is small and the plates will have to be renewed; we do not, therefore, think that the profit is so large as to call for any reduction in price and this is especially the case as to the geography which is a good text-book both as to matter, maps and illustrations and general get up.

Public School Geography.—This book is now sold at 75 cents retail; it has a fairly large annual sale and has been in use since 1887; the annual profit has been sufficient to give the publishers a fair living profit and at the same time gradually pay off the capital account which is now fully paid, leaving a reasonable surplus of legitimate profit. The price may now fairly be reduced to 60 cents, if continued after the end of 1898.

Public School Writing Course:—

Vertical series: 1 to 6.

This book is now sold at seven cents; it has a very large sale; it was authorized in March of 1896, and the profits will be sufficient to repay the capital account in about four years allowing the publishers a reasonable annual living profit. We are of opinion that this book might properly be reduced to six cents after the end of 1899.

As to the books published by the Methodist Publishing Company, we find and report as follows:

Public School Physiology and Temperance.—The price of this book is too low. It is published absolutely without living profit of any kind, and but for the very large sale the publishers would suffer loss in not being able to realize the capital account.

Primary Latin Book.—This book is sold at \$1; it was authorized in 1892 and has run five years, in which time the capital account has been paid besides giving the publishers a fair living profit, and it should be reduced to 75 cents at the end of the year 1898.

High School Algebra.—The capital account has not as yet been realized on this book, the profit is not excessive and the price cannot reasonably be reduced.

As to the books published by W. J. Gage & Co., we report as follows:

High School Botany, Part II.—This book was authorized in 1888 and has been in use since; the annual sales are not large; the capital account is not yet wiped out, and it is quite plain that the profit has not been and is not excessive, and that the price should not be reduced.

Botanical Note Books, Parts I. and II.—These books were authorized in 1895; the price for Part I. is 50 cents, and the annual sale is not great. The price for Part II. is 60 cents, and the annual sale is very small; at the rate of

profit made on sale of these books, after allowing a moderate living profit to publishers, it will take about seven years to repay the capital account of Part I., and about twenty years to make up capital account on Part II., so it is obvious that the profit is not excessive on either book and the price should not be reduced, but might well be increased.

As to the books published by Hunter, Rose & Co., we report as follows:—

High School French Grammar.

High School Arithmetic.

Public School Euclid and Algebra.

High School French Reader.

These books were authorized in 1894 and the profit realized on the annual sales will not, as to any of the books, after allowing to publishers a reasonable annual living profit, yield sufficient to pay off the capital account for several years yet. The profit is not excessive and the price should not be reduced. The price of the Public School Euclid and Algebra is only 25 cents, and the prices of the other books are very low considering the class of book.

McKay's High School Euclid, Parts I., II. and III.—The plates for these books are imported by the publishers, and so far they have not realized sufficient profit on sales to afford a living profit and pay off the capital account. The profit is not excessive and the price cannot be reduced.

The American price is \$1, as against 50 cents, the Canadian price.

Public School Writing Course.—This book is practically out of use; the publishers have never realized and are not realizing any profit, and the price cannot be reduced.

Upon the question of royalties paid to the authors of the various text books and how the payment of such royalties affects the prices of the books, and also the desirability of payment to the authors by the Government of a lump sum for the copyrights;

We have on this branch of the matters covered by the terms of the Commission examined upon oath the several publishers of the school books now in use, and other publishers, and have also taken the evidence of the several authors, including Professors Alexander, Reynar, Clark and Wallace, and have also inquired into the mode of payment to authors now usually adopted between author and publisher, and we find and report as follows:—

The system of payment of authors by a royalty prevails almost universally in England, the United States and Canada, not only for text books but for most other literature, and this system, in our judgment, is most just to both author and publisher, as the publisher only pays the author as the book is sold and the publisher realizes on the venture, while the author gets full value for what he gives, such value being fixed by the public appreciation of his work as shewn in the sales thereof.

The payment of authors by royalty insures to the public a cheaper book than securing the copyright by payment of a lump sum; by the royalty system the publisher and the author, so far as the payment of the author is concerned, take equal chances as to the success of the venture in publishing the book, and the price of the book can be figured down to the lowest mark which will include the percentage of royalty; but if a lump sum be paid then the publisher has to look out for himself, the author takes no risk; the lump sum must be added to the capital account and interest computed on it for the number of years it ..

probably take to pay off the capital account after allowing for an annual living profit on the book ; and an estimate has to be made as to probable annual sale of the book. And with all this in their minds the publishers must, at the outset at any rate, put a higher price on the book so as to ensure being paid off his capital outlay as speedily as possible out of first sales, and looking to reducing the price if the book is a success and when the capital account has been repaid ; the larger the capital account is the higher in proportion the first price of the book must be.

It may be said that in the case of text books authorized for fixed periods a certain constituency is created by the authorization and the annual sales can with reasonable certainty be estimated before the price of the book is fixed, but this is not wholly so. Authorization does not necessarily involve compulsory use ; the Minister of Education may de authorize a book at any time upon notice ; the book may not find favor with teachers and scholars ; a newer and better book may be authorized ; the sale may not continue as large after the first or second year owing to the book being of good lasting quality and going from child to child, and in view of all this if the publisher pays out a lump sum to the author he must at the outset fix a larger price on the book so as to be reasonably and quickly recouped, than if he only undertakes to hand over a royalty on all books actually sold, not to include those given away to promote sales, and also exclusive of unsold stock. This is the result of the unanimous testimony of authors and publishers and appears clear upon a thoughtful consideration of the question.

The publishers also contend that good authors, such as have prepared the great majority of text books now in use in Ontario, will not be satisfied with small compensations by way of a lump sum ; they will figure out the value of their work by a computation of the probable results of a royalty and each author having unbounded confidence in the success of his book will demand a higher sum than the publisher could pay in view of the risk to be run, and besides, the publishers contend that to pay a lump sum instead of royalty on all the text books published, would require a larger capital than they could afford to devote to the text book branch of their business.

Where an author is paid by royalty he remains interested in keeping up the success and standard of his book, and will without further charge see to the revision and improvement of the book in its successive editions so as to keep it up-to-date, but if paid by lump sum he or someone else has to be paid for revision or improvement work.

The employment of authors by the day or hour in the preparation of text books met with a decided disapproval from all the authors examined by us and is not favored in any quarters where we made enquiry and is not practised to any extent. We are of the opinion that it would be prejudicial to the interests of authorship and the public, tending to impair the literary character and quality of the text books and turning earnest and ambitious authors into mere literary hacks. Writers of standing, qualified to prepare text books such as should be used in our schools, would at any rate refuse to be put in this position or accept a such amount of remuneration as would increase the price of books beyond that now fixed under the royalty system.

The royalty paid does not exceed ten per cent. on price of each book sold except in one or two cases where fifteen per cent. is paid, there being in these cases two authors employed on the work and great care and much revision being required in getting up work and preparing it for the press.

The royalty of ten per cent. appears to us to be reasonable and fair to the authors and in no case do we find that an author has received an excessive

amount for his work on the text books of this Province. In the United States where the circulation of text books is very much greater, the authors though being paid only ten per cent. realize much larger returns from the greater sales.

In the lower priced text books, especially those below fifty cents, the royalty does not influence the price of the book, and in the higher priced ones in many instances the royalty is not included to its full extent in the price of the book, because doing so would make the price an odd number of cents.

The method of payment to the author and the amount he receives for his work is a matter of arrangement between the author and publisher, each looking out for himself. The Department of Education does not interfere between them; the publisher makes the best bargain he can as to royalty and brings a specimen book to the Minister of Education, who if satisfied with the merit of the book, fixes the price he is willing to have it authorized at, and if the publisher agrees the book may be authorized. This system, in our opinion, has worked admirably so far, and the investigation by us into the prices, at which the text books used in the Public and High Schools are sold, has satisfied us that the children and young people of Ontario have in use an admirable selection of text books obtainable by them as cheaply as school books can be obtained in England or the United States, and in many instances at much less cost.

It being our opinion that the system of royalty is the best as between publisher and author, and that it does not increase, but tends to diminish the retail price of text books, we are decidedly of the opinion that the same reasons apply to the Government, and that it would not be in the public interest for the Department of Education hereafter to make arrangements with authors for payment to them of a lump sum for the copyright of any text book instead of including in the price of the book a reasonable percentage for royalty and leaving the author to receive his compensation from the sale price of the book.

The educationists of this Province, possessing the necessary literary ability and a knowledge of our educational system and the needs of our schools, are better qualified than authors in any other country to produce suitable text books and to embody in them Canadian ideals. The development of a Canadian text book literature is a wise and judicious policy, which has been steadily pursued by the Education Department for many years with the result that the youth of our schools have in their hands text books of certainly equal literary merit with and greater adaptability to our school needs, because more Canadian in tone, than text book literature of outside authorship; an additional advantage being that the large sum in royalties which was annually paid by the publishers to American and English authors is now kept at home, being paid to Canadians and assisting in the development of Canadian authorship and the building up of our own nationality.

Upon the third enquiry called by the Commission we have made investigation as to the text books used in the other Provinces and in the United States, and the prices thereof, and we find that the uniform excellence of the Ontario text books is such, that many of them after authorization here have been authorized in the other Provinces and are sold there by Ontario publishers for use in the Public and High Schools at the Ontario retail prices.

The following are Ontario text books used in the various other Provinces :

Manitoba :

Ontario Public School Readers (for part use).

Public School Arithmetic.

Public School Geography.
 Public School Grammar.
 History of the Dominion of Canada, Clement (for 5th form).
 High School Composition from Models.
 High School Geography.
 High School History of England and Canada.
 High School Arithmetic.
 High School Algebra.
 First Latin Book.
 High School Physical Science Part I., Part II.
 High School Bookkeeping.

North West Territories :

Ontario Public School Readers (for part use).
 Public School Arithmetic.
 Public School Geography.
 Public School Grammar.
 History of the Dominion of Canada, Clement (for 5th form).
 Public School Drawing Course.

(French-English Readers :)

First Reader, Part I.
 First Reader, Part II.
 Second Reader.
 Third Reader.
 High School Reader.
 High School English Grammar.
 High School Geography.
 High School History of England and Canada.
 High School Arithmetic.
 High School Euclid (Books 1, 2 and 3).
 High School Book-keeping.

British Columbia :—

Public School History of England and Canada.
 History of the Dominion of Canada, Clement (for 5th form).
 Public School Physiology and Temperance.
 High School Composition from Models.
 High School Physical Science, Part I. and II.
 High School Book-keeping.

New Brunswick :—

History of the Dominion of Canada, Clement (for 5th form).
 Public School Drawing Course.

(French-English Readers.)

First Reader, Part I.

First Reader, Part II.

Second Reader.

Third Reader.

Primary Latin Book.

Quebec :

History of the Dominion of Canada, Clement (for 5th form).

Public School Drawing Course.

Public School Physiology and Temperance.

High School History of England and Canada.

High School Beginner's Greek Book.

High School German Grammar.

High School Book-keeping.

Nova Scotia :

Public School Drawing Course.

As to the text books used in the United States and the prices paid there fore, our enquiries have led irresistibly to the conclusion that under the system pursued by the Department of Education in Ontario, the public here obtain school books of equal educational and literary merit and excellence in make up as those of the United States at much cheaper rates; to quote from the report of the arbitrators dated 27th May, 1889, upon an examination into the price of texts books, the Department "has exercised extreme care in dealing with each book as to the retail price thereof so that the public have obtained the books at lower prices than could have been obtained under any other system than the system of authorization now adopted."

A personal inspection of text books used in American Public Schools and a comparison of the prices paid therefor, shews as follows :—

Readers :

Swinton's	6 books containing 1953 pages.....	\$3 66
Barnes'	5 " " 1374	2 65
Monroe's	6 " " 1328	2 57
Ontario Pub. School	6 " " 1477	1 65

Grammar :

Brown's	2 books containing 500 pages	\$1 16
Hyde's	4 " " 919	1 95
Reed & Kellogg's	2 " " 601	1 01
Ontario Pub. Sch.	1 " " 190	25

Arithmetic :

Milne's	2 books containing 699 pages	\$ 95
Wentworth's	3 " " 900	1 95
Brooke's	4 " " 1288	2 61
Ontario Pub. Sch.	1 " " 210	25

Geography :

Frye's	2	books containing	335	pages	\$1 85
Barnes'	2	"	"	237	1 80
Warren's	3	"	"	365	2 97
Ontario Pub. Sch.	1	"	"	164	75

History :

Montgomery's	2	books containing	679	pages	\$1 60
Meyer's	1	"	"	759	1 50
Fiske's	1	"	"	553	1 00
Ontario Pub. Sch.	2	"	"	623	80

Temperance and Hygiene :

Pathfinder	3	books containing	733	pages	\$1 80
Hutchins'	1	"	"	371	1 10
Walker's	1	"	"	415	1 20
Ontario Pub. Sch.	1	"	"	196	25

Drawing :

White's	9	books containing	288	pages	\$1 05
Ontario Pub. Sch.	6	"	"	144	30

Writing :

Merrill's	6	books containing	144	pages	\$0 48
Spencer's	12	"	"	288	84
Ontario Pub. Sch.	6	"	"	152	45

Comparison of cost of text books of Public Schools of New York with the cost of those in Public Schools in Ontario :

	New York.	Ontario.
Readers	\$2 57	\$1 65
Algebra and Euclid.....	25
Geography.....	1 80	75
Grammar	1 01	25
History	1 00	80
Drawing.....	1 05	30
Physiology and Temperance	1 10	25
Writing	48	45
Arithmetic.....	95	25
Lowest cost	\$9 96	\$4 95

It appears to us that the High School and Public School Geographies having now being authorized and in use for ten years might with advantage be revised and modernized somewhat on the lines of Frye's Geographies published in Boston, the price of which is \$1.85 for two books as against 75cts. for our Public School Geography.

In closing our report we may properly notice that the contracts with the Government under which the various school books are published, contain certain provisions entitling the Department of Education to make arrangements with other publishers on similar terms for publication of the same books, so that there

cannot be a monopoly, in fact some of these books are published under those agreements by more than one publisher, but competition has not reduced price, showing that original price was not excessive. Great care has also been taken to provide that the material used, and workmanship employed in the manufacture of each book shall be of excellent quality and kind, and we have much pleasure in reporting that the publishers have lived up to their contracts in that respect, and that the various books published by them are excellent as to paper, printing and binding, very durable and of very attractive exterior.

All of which is respectfully submitted :

EWD. MORGAN,
JAMES BAIN, JR.,
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON.

Toronto,
10th January, 1898.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND NAMES OF WITNESSES EXAMINED:—

In connection with the Commission twenty-one meetings were held and the following witnesses examined :

As to cost of text books:—

H. L. Thompson.	}	of the Copp, Clark, Co.
A. W. Thomas.		
A. E. Whinton.		
S. G. Beatty.	}	of the Canada Publishing Co.
Henry P. Carson.		
Dr. Briggs.	}	of the Methodist Book and Publishing Co.
Robert Milne.		
Richard Whittaker		
W. P. Gundy.	}	of W. J. Gage & Co.
W. D. Jones.		
Dan. A. Rose, of Hunter Rose & Co.		
H. M. Wilkinson, of the Education Department.		
John R. Barber, of Barber, Ellis & Co., Limited, and Barber Bros.		
Alexander Buntin, of Valleyfield Paper Mills.		
W. Crichton, of Buntin, Reid & Co.		
George Thomas, Assistant Queen's Printer.		
Robert Brown, of Brown Bros., Limited.		
T. G. Wilson, of Munro, Cassidy & Co.		
Robert G. McLean, of R. G. McLean & Co.		
James Murray, of the Murray Ptg. Co.		

As to Royalties:—

H. L. Thompson, of the Copp, Clark, Co.		
S. G. Beatty, of the Canada Publishing Co.		
Dr. Briggs, of the Methodist Book and Publishing Co.		
W. P. Gundy, of W. J. Gage & Co.		
G. N. Morang, of D. Appleton & Co.		
Professor Alexander, of Toronto University.		
“	Clark, of Trinity	“
“	Reynar, of Victoria	“
Chancellor Wallace, of McMaster		“
Principal Kirkland.		

As to Literary Quality of Text Books:—

Professor Alexander, of Toronto University		
“	Clark, of Trinity	“
“	Reynar, of Victoria	“
Chancellor Wallace, of McMaster		“

